NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1942.

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VITAL STATISTICS for 1942.

POPULATION (Mid Year) 25,400 (a decrease of 1,100.)

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	TOTAL	
Legitimate	170	173)		
Illegitimate	5	12)	360	= A birth rate of 14.1 per 1,000 persons.

Average Birth rate for last 10 years = 13.1
England & Wales Birth Rate. = 15.8

STILL BIRTHS.				
Legitimate	11	5)		
Illegitimate	-	-)	16	= A rate of 42.6 per 1,000 births (live and still)

DEATHS	143	149	292	= A death rate of 11.1 per 1,000 persons)

Average rate for last 10 years = 13.2
England & Wales Rate = 11.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Child Birth)
1 = A rate of 2.6 per 1,000 births (live and still)

England & Wales Rate = 2.01

INFANT MORTALITY (Under 1 year)

	5	2	7	= A rate of 19.4 per 1,000 live births

England & Wales Rate = 49

RAINFALL for year = 39.27 inches
(Average for last 10 years = 41.31)

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ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1942.

This report - the fourth of the war period - is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in a Ministry of Health Circular dated 10th March, 1943, which directs that it shall be on lines similar to previous wartime reports and confined to essential matters affecting public health and avoiding any mention of new and important public utility undertakings in connection with water supplies, sewerage etc.

Under present conditions of labour and material the latter instruction was hardly necessary as such things are now practically impossible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Cases	Sent to Hos-pital	Deaths.
Diphtheria	8	8	0
Scarlet Fever	19	18	0
Pneumonia	12	0	1
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Measles	51	0	0
Whooping Cough	23	0	0

Compared with those of the two previous years the above table makes a very different showing, especially as regards Diphtheria when there were 56 and 45 cases respectively, and there can be little doubt that this was largely due to the intensive immunisation compaign carried out during the last eighteen months. Of the 8 cases that did occur, 5 were in one family that was not immunised.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The mass inoculations of 1941 when about 80% of the children were done could not be carried on into 1942 owing to lack of numbers but sessions were held in the village schools throughout the District with the result that by the end of the year the numbers inoculated were as follows:-

Under 5.	Over 5.	Total
302	458	760

This total added to the total of 1941 gives an approximate percentage of 70 for children under 5 and 90 per cent for those over 5.

This may be considered satisfactory and if it can be kept up for a few years, and efforts will be made to do so, this dangerous disease should be practically stamped out and become as rare as smallpox

Tuberculosis.

Though there is a general and expected increase of this disease throughout the country from causes arising out of the War, the numbers in a District such as ours being comparatively small, little difference is noticeable and in fact deaths were fewer.

	Males	Females	Total
New Cases	15	10	25
Deaths	7	8	15

The totals for 1941 were 25 and 18 respectively.

The Evacuees.

In the last report a year ago it was recorded that owing to the cessation of bombing on the larger cities there had been a steady drift home on the part of the evacuees. This drift for the same reason continued throughout last year, especially among the children, 750 of whom returned. This leaves about 550 still here, and in addition there are approximately 500 adults. These latter though generally speaking more amenable than they used to be, still give considerable work and trouble and need a special office and staff to deal with them.

Evacuee Hostels.

Of the three Hostels jointly shared with the Urban District two, Milton House, Newton Abbot (Boys) and Tapley House, Bishopsteignton (Girls) have now been closed, the inmates having so decreased in number that the expense of keeping them going was considered no longer justified. During their time they served a very useful purpose.

The Hostel for scabies and contagious skin diseases at Newton Abbot, now the only one left, is still in active use, as although most of the evacuees have gone there is plentiful evidence of their recent stay here. Local children are now the chief sufferers. During the twelve months ending 31st.December, 1942. the numbers treated were as follows:-

	In Patients
Newton Abbot Rural	56
Newton Abbot Urban	60
Teignmouth	8
Dawlish	10
Ashburton	6
Total	140

	Out Patients.
Newton Abbot Rural	52
Newton Abbot Urban	75
Teignmouth	1
Ashburton	1
Total	129

The grand total 269 is 36 less than the year before.

Apart from the foregoing there is little to record.

Owing to restrictions of labour and material no new work of any size or importance has been attempted, other than what could be done by the Council employees, and in this connection it is worthy of note that the Ilsington Water Supply has been greatly increased by joining up with the Haytor Quarry ponds. The effect of this should be to make this parish independent of the most prolonged drought, for many years to come.

Meanwhile the general health of the people shows no deterioration, and this is particularly so of the children, for what with canteen dinners, almost unlimited milk and Lord Woolton's excellent bread, it would be surprising if it were otherwise.

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